signing the loan agreements with the operating/project implementing agencies for grant of loan for a particular power project/scheme. The Bank has its own internal operational procedures, policies and guidelines.

**Strike in the U.P. Power Sector**

2245. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was complete strike in the U.P. power sector seriously affecting the power supply and crippling the power supply to northern grid;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered as a consequence thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Government of Uttar Pradesh and would be laid on the Table of the House.

**Implementation of Pipavav Mega Power Project**

2246. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fate of 2000 MW Pipavav Mega Power Project;

(b) by when its construction would start; and

(c) by when it would be able to supply power to Rajasthan and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The 2000 MW Pipavav power project is one of the projects identified under the revised mega power projects policy announced in November, 1998. The RFQ (Request for Qualification) process for the selection of qualified bidders has been completed and 13 prospective bidders have been selected for the RFP (Request for Proposal) process. Draft RFP document has been issued to the bidders and a pre-bid conference was held on 22nd February, 2000.

(b) and (c) The detailed time schedule for implementation of the Pipavav mega project will be incorporated in the final RFP document. However, construction work on the project and subsequent supply to the beneficiary states including Rajasthan, would start only after the necessary inputs/clearances are tied up by the selected bidder and financial closure is achieved.